# FAMILY TO FAMILY

Rebuilding
Foster Care
in
San Luis Obispo County

**Department of Social Services**
**P.O. Box 8119**
**San Luis Obispo, CA  93403-8119**

## For more information call:

**Building Community Partnerships**
Joseph Castro (se habla Español)
EOC – Economic Opportunity Commission
(805) 781-1873

**Recruitment, Training and Retention of Resource Families**
Connie Willard
(805) 772-6485

**Team Decision Making**
Beverly Collier
(805) 781-1775
Marisa Famularo, Creative Mediation
(805) 549-0442

**Self Evaluation and Use of Data**
Joyce Fields
(805) 781-1895

**Equal Access (Fairness & Equity)**
Fay Guerre (se habla Español)
(805) 461-6015

**Foster Parent Association**
Kelly Lanini - President
(805) 771-9849

**For Resource Family inquiries call:**
(805) 781-1705

**Family to Family Administration**
Mari Solis - Coordinator
(805) 781-1839
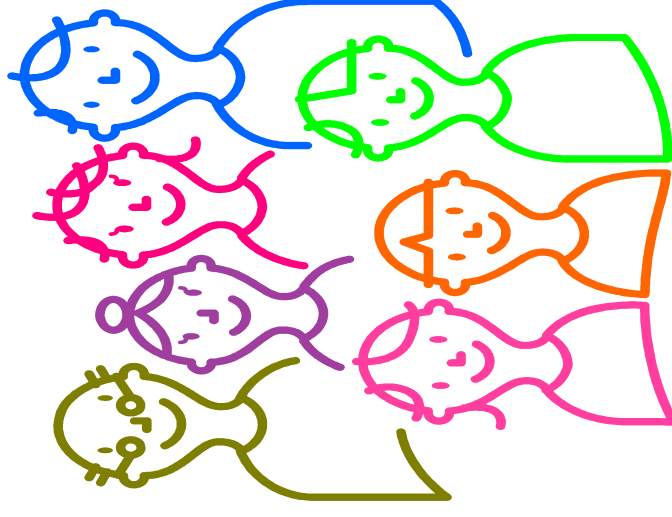Cindy MacLean
(805) 781-1945
Carol Wagner
(805) 781-1872

**Family to Family Web Site:** www.aecf.org

**DSS Website:** www.slodss.org

# Results for Children

**Fewer kids are placed in foster care.**

*However, if foster care is necessary:*

- ❖ *More children will be placed in their own neighborhoods & communities.*

- ❖ *More children will be reunified with their birth families.*

- ❖ *More brothers and sisters will be placed together.*

- ❖ *Fewer children will be placed in institutional care; resources will shift to kinship care, family foster care & family-centered services.*

- ❖ *Children will have shorter lengths of stay if placed in care.*

- ❖ *Fewer children will re-enter placement care.*

- ❖ *Fewer moves once placed in care.*

- ❖ *Fewer gaps associated with gender race/ethnicity, or age.*

> ***Best Practice Principles***
> ***Family Centered***
> ***Strengths Based***
> ***Needs Driven***
> ***Solution Oriented***
> ***Community Based***

# Goals

*To achieve these results, we are committed to the following changes in the child welfare system:*

- ❖ *Develop a network of family foster care that is…*
  - *…neighborhood based,*
  - *… culturally sensitive, and*
  - *…located primarily in children's residential communities*

- ❖ *Ensure that all children, including teens and brother-sister groups, who enter foster care, are placed together*

- ❖ *Increase the quality and number of foster and kinship families*

- ❖ *Provide timely services for birth families and children when needed so they can be quickly and safely reunited*

- ❖ *Screen children being considered for removal from home…*
  - *…to determine what help their family needs to keep them safe,*
  - *…to make that help available when it is most needed, and*
  - *…to improve support for children who must be placed*

- ❖ *Involve birth parents, foster parents, & kinship families as team members*

- ❖ *Become a neighborhood resource for children and families by investing in communities where numerous families live that are involved in the child welfare system.*

# Tools to Rebuild the Foster Care System

*To achieve these goals, we are committed to applying four main strategies:*

- ❖ ***Recruitment, Training and Retention of Resource Families***

  *Find, support and maintain foster and kinship families who can provide homes to children in their own neighborhoods.*

- ❖ ***Building Community Partnerships***

  *Establish relationships with a wide range of community organizations in neighborhoods where referrals rates to the child welfare system are high. Engage communities to create an environment that supports families involved in the child welfare system.*

- ❖ ***Team Decision Making***

  *Involve birth families and community members in all placement decisions to ensure a network of support for the children and for the adults who care for them.*

- ❖ ***Self-Evaluation***

  *Collect and use hard data about child and family outcomes to evaluate our improvements and determine if or where additional changes are needed.*